

Attorney Docket No. MSU 4.1-553
Appl. No. 09/917,147
Amdt. Dated: Nov. 16, 2004
Response to Office Action mailed 9/08/2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 3 to 8 are pending. No claims are allowed.

The claims have been amended to clearly distinguish them from the prior art which did not recognize that a product could be prepared from an amorphous hydrated alumina to form the mesostructured boehmite and gamma alumina with the removal of the organic modifier. This is disclosed in the Examples in the specification. The process step limitations clearly distinguish the products from the prior art.

The formation of boehmite is not disclosed in the references. The formation of boehmite requires knowledge of how to accomplish this result which is not inherent in the references.

It is now believed that Claims 1 and 3 to 8 are in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner does not agree, Applicants request an interview with the Examiner. Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully,


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